UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1973
7 September 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council asks Secretary-General to establish International Commission of Inquiry to investigate alleged arms flows to former Rwandan government forces.

* Bosnian Serbs must allow UNHCR and ICRC immediate access to persons displaced from Srebrenica and Zepa, Security Council says.

* Security Council expresses concern at grave situation of persons displaced by recent Croatian offensive and reported violations of international humanitarian law.

* Policy-makers must ensure women have equal access to economic resources and opportunities, UNDP Administrator tells Fourth World Conference on Women.

* NATO continues air attacks around Sarajevo; Contact Group to meet with Foreign Ministers of Bosnia, Croatia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in Geneva tomorrow.

* Security Council appeals to Abkhaz side to take more constructive and conciliatory stance in upcoming negotiations with Georgia.

* * *

The Security Council today requested the Secretary-General to establish, as a matter of urgency, an International Commission of Inquiry to investigate alleged arms flows to former Rwandan government forces in violation of resolutions 918 (1994), 997 (1995) and 1011 (1995). The Commission would also investigate allegations that such forces were receiving military training in order to destabilize Rwanda. It would identify parties aiding and abetting the illegal arms flows and recommend measures to deal with the problem. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 1013 (1995).

The Council called on States, United Nations bodies, and humanitarian and non-governmental organizations to make information relating to the Commission's mandate available as soon as possible. It called on States in which the Commission will carry out its mandate to cooperate fully with it, including meeting requests for security, assistance and access. The Council recommended that the Commission begin its work as soon as possible and, to

(more)

For information media—not an official record

that end, requested the Secretary-General to pursue his consultations with the countries of the Great Lakes region.

* * *

In another meeting today, the Security Council strongly condemned the failure of the Bosnian Serbs to comply with resolution 1010 (1995). That resolution demanded that they allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) immediate access to persons displaced from Srebrenica and Zepa. In a statement by its President, Francesco Paolo Fulci (Italy), the Council said the Bosnian Serbs' refusal to cooperate with those agencies could only reinforce its deep concern.

The Council stressed its determination that the fate of the persons displaced from Srebrenica and Zepa be established. It reaffirmed its demand that the Bosnian Serbs give immediate access to such persons in areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina controlled by their forces, and permit ICRC representatives to visit and register any persons detained against their will. The Council also reaffirmed its demand that the Bosnian Serbs fully respect the rights of all such persons, ensure their safety and release them. It asked the Secretary-General to report by 6 October on compliance with resolution 1010 (1995).

* * *

Also today, the Council expressed deep concern at the grave situation of refugees and persons displaced during last month's Croatian offensive, and at reports of violations of international humanitarian law. In a Presidential statement, the Council said it shared the Secretary-General's view that the mass exodus of the local Serb population had created a humanitarian crisis of significant proportions. It demanded that the Croatian Government immediately investigate all reports of human rights violations and take appropriate measures to put an end to them.

The Council reiterated its demand that the Croatian Government fully respect the rights of the local Serb population, including the right to remain or return in safety. It welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to respond to the acute humanitarian situation, and called on all Member States to provide urgent relief and assistance to the refugees and displaced persons.

* * *

As the Fourth World Conference on Women continued in Beijing today, delegates exchanged views on such issues as women's legal rights, the disadvantages girls suffered and the economic disparity between women and men. The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), James

Gustave Speth, said women would emerge as the major bread-winners in most societies if their labour were given a proper market value. He urged policy-makers to recognize women's contributions to wealth creation and to ensure equal access to resources and opportunities. Specific targets must be set to move women into decision-making positions, he added.

Assistant Secretary-General Ahmed Sadry of the League of Arab States said any consideration of women's issues was but a consideration of the issues of human society. Women injected enlightened ideas and noble values into the minds of each generation and remained the nucleus of the family and the pillar of family life. Arab governments sought to provide women with due access to education, health care and the exercise of social, economic and political rights. They had also opened the door wide for women to actively participate in the process of advancing the quality of life in society.

* * *

Weather conditions over Sarajevo improved today, permitting unhindered air activity by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), according to a United Nations spokesman. There was no outgoing fire from the Bosnian Government military after the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) warned it not to try to capitalize on the NATO air action.

Meanwhile, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Carl Bildt were in Paris today for a joint meeting of the five-member Contact Group on Bosnia and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group. At least one of the Co-Chairmen will attend tomorrow's meeting of the five-member Contact Group with the Foreign Ministers of Bosnia, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in Geneva.

* * *

The President of the Security Council today appealed to the Abkhaz side to take a more constructive and conciliatory stance in upcoming negotiations with Georgia. In a statement to correspondents, he said the Council fully supported the efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Envoy and the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator, aimed at achieving a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict. He added that Council members stood ready to consider what help could be provided in the implementation of an agreement between the two sides.

* *** *